No Objection to Declassification in Full 2010/08/26 : LOC-HAK-547-6-35-0

TOP SECRET

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EYES ONLY

O 232154Z JAN 73
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 53
TO WINSTON LORD FOR HENRY KISSINGER

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T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY CONTAINS CODEWORD
WH30186

TOHAK 53

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

JANUARY 23, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM:- THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

PRESS REPORTS OF CEASE-FIRE DEVELOPMENTS: THE PRESS INTERPRETS THE JOVIAL MOODS OF BOTH LE DUC THO AND YOU AS A SIGN THAT PEACE IS NEAR. YOUR FLIGHT BACK TO WASHINGTON IS NOTED, BUT THERE IS NO WORD ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE' TRAVEL PLANS. AN AFP DISPATCH FROM PARIS STATES THAT DESPITE THE GREATEST DISCRETION BY BOTH DELEGATIONS, "ALL REPORTS BY SEVERAL SOURCES IN PARIS SEEM TO CONFIRM THAT THE AGREEMENT...HAS NOT ONLY BEEN REACHED BUT UNDOUBTEDLY INITIALED THIS MORNING BY HENRY KISSINGER AND LE DUC THO." MARQUIS CHILDS TODAY QUOTED SOURCES IN WASHINGTON "CLOSE TO THE PROLONGED NEGOTIATION" THAT YOU AND THO HAD INITIALED THE AGREEMENT. THE ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT LE DUC THO WILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW AT 10:00 EST. PRESIDENT NIXON'S SPEECH TONIGHT HAS ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SAIGON: PRESIDENT THIEU TOLD THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TONIGHT THAT THE COMMUNISTS' SIGNATURE ON A CEASE-FIRE WOULD NOT MEAN THEY HAD ABANDONED PLANS TO TAKE OVER SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS WAS INTERPRETED AS ANOTHER INDICATION AGREEMENT WAS NEAR IN THE PARIS TALKS. THIEU ADDED THAT THE CEASE-FIRE COULD BE A TRAP AND THAT THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SHOULD BE WARY. HE WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD HIS CABINET THAT ACCORDING TO CAPTURED ENEMY DOCUMENTS, THE COMMUNISTS WOULD TRY TO SABOTAGE A CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT.

TIN SONG HAS REPORTED THAT ARVN TROOPS IN ALL FOUR MILITARY REGIONS WERE PLACED ON FULL ALERT ON JANUARY 20 TO THWART POSSIBLE ENEMY ATTACKS BEFORE A CEASE-FIRE. THE POLICE FORCE HAS ALSO BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE FURTHER SECURITY MEASURES.

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POLITICAL FORCES SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS. SOUTH VIETNAM'S MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS ARE CONTINUING TO MANEUVER IN PREPARATION FOR THE CEASE-FIRE AND IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT PRESIDENTIAL DECREE STIFFENING CRITERIA FOR POLITICAL PARTIES. MOST INDEPENDENT AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS STILL APPEAR TO BE THINKING IN TERMS OF OPERATING OUTSIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT CAMP. THE AN QUANG BUDDHISTS CONTINUE TO WORRY ABOUT COMMUNIST PRESSURE ON THEM WHEN THE FIGHTING STOPS. CATHOLIC POLITICAL LEADERS APPEAR TO BE THE FURTHEST ALONG IN TRYING TO MEET THE TERMS OF THE DECREE. THE LARGELY SOUTHERN-BASED PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ALSO HOPES TO QUALIFY UNDER THE NEW DECREE, ALTHOUGH IT DOUBTS THAT IT CAN DO SO ON ITS OWN.

CIA THINKS THE STATUS OF THESE NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL GROUPINGS WILL LIKELY REMAIN IN DOUBT FOR SOME TIME AS THE VARIOUS GROUPS TRY TO ADAPT TO THE NEW CONDITIONS BROUGHT ON BY THE CEASE-FIRE AND THE DECREE. IF PRESIDENT THIEU CONTINUES TO DEVELOP THE DEMOCRACY PARTY AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER GROUPS WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONCILIATORY GESTURES TOWARD THEM, SOME GROUPS COULD BECOME MORE ALIENATED FROM THE GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRESSURE OF A CONFRONTATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS COULD YET INDUCE SOME FACTIONS TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT CAMP.

IRAN TO TAKE OVER OIL INDUSTRY IN 1979: THE SHAH ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IRAN WOULD NOT RENEW ITS EXISTING AGREEMENT WITH THE WESTERN OIL CONSORTIUM AFTER 1979 AND WOULD TAKE OVER THE OIL INDUSTRY AND RUN IT INDEPENDENTLY.
EMBASSY TEHRAN SAID HE
OFFERED THE CONSORTIUM TWO POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION. THE COMPANIES COULD CONTINUE OPERATIONS AS AT PRESENT UNTIL 1979 AND THEN BUY OIL JUST LIKE ANY OTHER CUSTOMER. UNDER THIS ALTERNATIVE, THEY WOULD HAVE TO RAISE PRODUCTION TO EIGHT MILLION BARRELS A DAY; IF NOT, IRAN WOULD PRODUCE AND SELL THE BALANCE. IRAN'S REVENUES PER BARREL WOULD HAVE TO BE RAISED TO THE SAME LEVEL AS THAT RECEIVED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE WOULD RETURN ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSORTIUM OIL OPERATIONS TO THE NATIONAL IRANIAN OIL COMPANY. CONSORTIUM COMPANIES WOULD HAVE LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR "25 EVEN 100 YEARS" WITH GOOD PRICES.

WESTERN OIL COMPANY SPOKESMEN IN NEW YORK REACTED CAUTIOUSLY TO THE NEWS. THEY MAINTAIN THAT THE 1954 PACT STATES THAT THE OIL FIRMS HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXTEND THE PACT FOR THREE FIVE-YEAR PERIODS IF CERTAIN "MINIMUM CONDITIONS" ARE MET. IRAN'S POSITION IS THAT EXTENSIONS OF THE FIVE-YEAR PERIODS DEPEND ON ITS DECISION ALONE.

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JOHNSON FUNERAL: FORMER PRESIDENT JOHNSON WILL LIE IN STATE IN THE CAPITOL FROM WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON UNTIL THURSDAY MORNING, WHEN FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL CITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN WASHINGTON. BURIAL WILL BE AT 3:30 CST IN THE FAMILY CEMETERY, NEAR THE LBJ RANCH.

THE EVENING STAR AND WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS: ANDREW BORGWIEC REPORTS ON THE PEACE TALKS IN PARIS.

ACCORDING TO PENTAGON PLANNERS, U.S. AIR POWER WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA ONLY VERY SLOWLY DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD OF A CEASE-FIRE. UNTIL THE POWS ARE RETURNED AND THE MISSING ARE ACCOUNTED FOR, FEW COMBAT AIRCRAFT WILL BE PULLED BACK IN THE FIRST 60 DAYS OF ANY TRUCE.

A STAR EDITORIAL COMMENTS THAT AMONG THE UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS WHICH SHOULD MERIT THE ATTENTION OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATORS IS THE QUESTION OF HOW A CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS LIKELY TO AFFECT THE COLLATERAL WARS IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA. APPARENTLY, NO ONE HAS GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THE PROBLEM. PEACE WILL NOT BE SECURED UNTIL IT APPLIES TO ALL THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED.

CROSBY NOYES WRITES THAT THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS HAS CHANGED THE PERSPECTIVE WITH WHICH BOTH EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS MUST NOW CONSIDER FUTURE POSSIBILITIES. FOUR OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO THEM: AN ALL-OUT RENEWAL OF THE WAR, WHICH IS A PRESCRIPTION FOR EGYPTIAN SUICIDE; A LIMITED MILITARY ACTION WITH A PRIMARILY DIPLOMATIC OBJECTIVE, WHICH INVOLVES GREAT RISK WITHOUT REASONABLE ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS; A RENEWAL OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN AN INTERIM AGREEMENT; NO ACTION AT ALL, WHICH CAN LEAD TO FURTHER INSTABILITY. AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD NOT END TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST BUT WOULD SERVE TO LESSEN THE DANGER OF RENEWED FIGHTING.
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